

determining the connectivity of the transmission links based on the test information received at the first node.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of transmitting comprises:
setting a field of the cell to be transmitted with a test pattern.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:
receiving the transmitted cell at a second node;
writing the test pattern in a field of a second cell; and
transmitting the second cell from the second node.

11. The method of claim 8 further comprising:
setting a timeout period during which cells are continuously transmitted.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of determining comprises:
determining the transmission links that belong to a group based on the test information received at the first node.

13. For use in inverse multiplexing digital data over a connection having a plurality of transmission links, the data containing a series of ATM data cells, an apparatus for testing connectivity of the transmission links comprising: